

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4-10 have been amended. Claims 22-32 have been added.

In the Final Office Action dated April 3, 2003, the Examiner (1) objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a); (2) objected to the specification for allegedly being confusing due to reference number 1 in the drawings; (3) rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly containing subject matter not described in the specification; (4) rejected claims 1-3 and 11-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,015,964 (hereinafter “Janko”); and (5) rejected claims 4-10 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Janko.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected the drawings because claim 1 recited an “RF interconnect structure,” a structure that was not clearly presented in any of the drawings. The Applicant has amended claim 1 by removing the phrase “RF interconnect structure.” The Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner objected to the disclosure because it was allegedly unclear whether reference number 1 referred to “the RF connector” or to “the connector assembly.” In response, the Applicant has amended the specification and the drawings so that separate reference numbers are now provided for the connector assembly 100 and the body of the connector 101. Thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for allegedly containing subject matter not described in the specification.

Specifically, the Examiner cites “an RF interconnect structure including a plurality of pins extending from the flange, which has been neither described in the specification nor shown in the drawing.” As stated above, the Applicant has amended claim 1 so that claim 1 no longer recites “an RF interconnect structure.” Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 USC §112, first paragraph.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 11-19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Janko. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to an RF connector assembly that comprises, among other things, a body having an inner cylindrical portion and an outer cylindrical portion. Janko does not anticipate claim 1 because Janko fails to teach or suggest an RF connector assembly, or any connector assembly that has a body comprising an inner cylindrical portion and an outer cylindrical portion.

Janko discloses a probe for testing integrated circuits. The probe housing has a central aperture that fits over the integrated circuit that is to be tested. None of the probes in Janko employ a body having the cylindrical portions recited in claim 1. Furthermore, the probes described in Janko are not connector assemblies. In addition, they have nothing to do with RF devices, RF signals, or RF connectors. Janko not only fails to teach or suggest the RF connector assembly of claim 1, it is wholly unrelated to the claimed subject matter in the present invention.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner alternatively rejected claims 4-10 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Janko. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

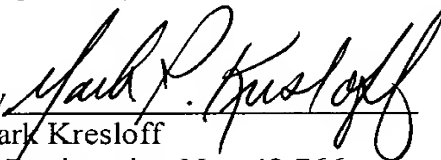
Claims 4-10 and 20-21 depend from claim 1. Thus, they are patentable over Janko for the same reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. The Applicants therefore request that the Examiner withdraw this rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, the Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner of Patents to charge any fees necessary to complete this filing, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, or credit any overpayment in fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for the necessary extension of time.

Dated: March 3, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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